THE

ARTICLES

OF THE

FRIENDLY UNION,

HELD IN THE

Orphan House,

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

NEWCASTLE:

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1798.

ARTICLES, &c.

ARTICLE I.

AGREED, That no perſon ſhall be admitted a member of this Union above the age of thirty-five years, and if diſputed, he muſt produce a copy of his regiſter.

II.

That no pitman or waterman ſhall be admitted a member of this union.

III.

That no man ſhall be received as a member without a majority of voices.

IV.

That new members may be received at the ſix-weeks meeting, and ſhall pay at entrance two ſhillings and ſixpence, and twopence half-penny per week afterward; but

if they are not approved of at the half-yearly meeting, their money ſhall be returned.

V.

That the weekly contribution ſhall be paid once in ſix weeks, on a Wedneſday evening, at a quarter of an hour after eight o'clock, either by the perſon himſelf, or any member for him; if it be not paid when his name is called over, he ſhall be fined twopence; and if it be not paid before nine o'clock he ſhall be fined fourpence; but if any member who cannot attend himſelf ſhould ſend his money by another member, and that member neglect to pay it in time, he ſhall be fined, and not the member who ſent it.

VI.

That no member in arrears ſhall be entitled to any benefit of ſick-money until his arrears are paid.

VII.

That if any member ſhall neglect to clear the books and fines, once in half-a-year, he ſhall be excluded this union.

That

VIII.

That three ſtewards ſhall be choſen half-yearly, that is to ſay, on the twenty-fourth day of June, at eight o'clock in the evening, and on the twenty-ſeventh day of December, at nine o'clock in the morning; except theſe days ſhould fall on a Saturday or on a Sunday, and then in ſuch caſe, the meeting ſhall be deferred till the Monday following, and if any member who has ſubſcribed twelve calendar months ſhould refuſe to ſtand ſteward in his turn, he ſhall be fined one ſhilling.

IX.

That if any of the ſtewards neglect to come at any appointed meeting, he ſhall be fined one ſhilling; or if after the hour appointed ten minutes ſhould have expired before he comes, he ſhall be fined fourpence; except he be ſick, or on urgent buſineſs to the ſatisfaction of the members, and then he muſt give previous notice to his fellow-ſtewards or be fined as beforementioned.

X.

That the ſtewards ſhall receive and pay all during their ſtewardſhip, keeping regu-

lar accounts, and acting nothing contrary to theſe articles, and when reſigning their office to their ſucceſſors ſhall give a full and true account of what has been received and diſburſed during the time of their ſtewardſhip, and if there has been any miſapplication or deficiency of the money, they ſhall make it good, or be excluded this union.

XI.

That if any member be abſent at any general meeting when his name is called over, he ſhall be fined twopence; and if he is altogether abſent, he ſhall be fined fourpence, except he is either ſick, lame, or out of town on lawful and urgent buſineſs.

XII.

That if any member who has ſubſcribed twelve calendar months be either ſick or lame, he ſhall adviſe one of the ſtewards, and the ſteward who receives the advice ſhall viſit him the ſame day, (if he lives within the four pariſhes of Newcaſtle) or be fined threepence; and the ſick or lame member ſhall receive (if it be required) from that day) five ſhillings per week, until he has received the ſum of ſix pounds ten ſhillings, if he is ſo long unable to work, and after

after he has received that ſum out of this union (whether by the large or leſs ſick-money) he ſhall receive two ſhillings and ſixpence per week, as long as he continues unable to do buſineſs; but if his ſickneſs or lameneſs be the conſequence of any wicked or unlawful practice, in that caſe he ſhall receive no benefit from this union.

XIII.

That when any member who does not reſide within the four pariſhes of Newcaſtle ſhall declare himſelf upon the box, he ſhall be required to ſend a written notice to the ſtewards, and that notice to be ſigned by the miniſter of his pariſh, or by a ſteward or claſs-leader in the methodiſt connexion.

XIV.

That the ſteward, whoſe buſineſs it is, ſhall carry or ſend the weekly allowance to the ſick or lame member on the day it becomes due, which is the eighth day after the notice is given, or be fined one ſhilling.

XV.

That if any member voluntarily enliſteth into

into his Majeſty's army or navy, and be therein diſabled, ſhall receive no benefit from this union, he being otherwiſe provided for.

XVI.

That if any member die, after having ſubſcribed twelve calendar months, his widow or any relation he ſhall bequeath it to, ſhall receive a legacy of four pounds, and two pounds for his funeral on demand, towards which ſum each member ſhall pay ſixpence at the firſt ſix-weeks meeting after the funeral, or be fined fourpence.

XVII.

That if the deceaſed member ſhould have received the leſſer ſick-money for one year, in that caſe, his ſurvivors ſhall not be entitled to the four pounds legacy, as mentioned in the preceding article.

XVIII.

That if the wife of any member who has ſubſcribed twelve calendar months, ſhould die, two pounds ſhall be allowed for her funeral, towards which ſum each member ſhall ſubſcribe ſixpence, at the firſt ſix-

weeks

weeks meeting after the funeral, or be fined fourpence.

XIX.

That the widow of a deceaſed member, who has not married again, ſhall be allowed two pounds for her funeral, to be paid on demand to her ſurviving friends, towards which ſum, each member ſhall ſubſcribe ſixpence at the firſt ſix-weeks meeting after the funeral, or be fined fourpence.

XX.

That if any member, when lying on the box, be found employed in buſineſs, or ſhall go three miles from home without leave from the ſtewards, he ſhall be excluded this union.

XXI.

That if any member die, who has not ſubſcribed twelve calendar months, what money he has paid ſhall be returned to his ſurviving friends.

XXII.

That a beadle ſhall be choſen by a majority

jority of voices, and his buſineſs ſhall be to warn each member within the five pariſhes of Newcaſtle and Gateſhead the day before the ſix-weeks and half-year meetings, for which he ſhall have twopence from each member, and a pair of new ſhoes each half-year day; and ſhould there be any occaſional meetings he ſhall be allowed one ſhilling for each.

XXIII.

That at the half-yearly meeting any new article may be conſidered and put to the vote, and if carried by a majority, ſhall be eſtabliſhed at the ſame time; and if any debate ſhall ariſe that cannot otherwiſe be determined it ſhall be decided by a majority of this union.

XXIV.

That if any member ſhall privately deſign or promote the breaking up of this union to any other member, and that member ſhall diſcover it, the member that made the firſt attempt to diſſolve this union ſhall be excluded; but if the other conceals the deſign, and it is aftewards diſcovered, then both ſhall be excluded, and while three members

members are willing this Friendly Union ſhould continue it ſhall not be in the power of all the reſt to diſſolve it.

FINIS.